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The Metro Effect

City staff urge faster rollout of plan to fix Toronto's deadly streets metroNEWS

Bigger budget Better design Safer crossings

Plus: Matt Elliott on too much talk, too little action, metroVIEWS

Toronto alliance demands *Fair*bnb

HOME SHARING

Labour unions, hotel industry, advocates call for crackdown

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

It's time to look at Airbnb more closely, a wide-ranging alliance is saying.

As cities around the world begin to crack down on home-sharing sites like Airbnb, a new coalition supported by labour unions, the hotel industry and affordable-housing advocates is calling for Toronto to develop regulations around the growing industry.

Coalition member Donna Borden is sounding the alarm about entire homes rented out for short-term stays, which she says takes much-needed rental units off the market.

"We're just concerned it's going to take away from what we already have and people won't have any place to live," she said.

Airbnb's critics also point to safety issues, lost tax revenue and the impact it could have on unionized hotel service jobs.

Max Pomeranc, regional head of public policy for Airbnb, wrote in an emailed statement: "It's time for fair home sharing regulation."

"Airbnb is committed to working with all levels of governments in Canada and around the world to ensure that there are clear, easy-to-follow rules for residents that want to share their homes," he added.

Pomeranc did not provide a number for the amount of entire homes available on Airbnb in Toronto but said the "vast majority" of users are "regular people sharing their primary residences."

Lis Pimentel, chair of Fairbnb and president of a local union for hotel workers, said according to data collected by the coalition based on daily listings, there are about 6,000 entire homes being rented out on Airbnb in Toronto.

She's particularly concerned about so-called "ghost hotels" — multiple entire homes being rented out by the same people.

"(That) is like three Fairmont Royal Yorks and the Sheridan Centre that are basically operating right now here in Toronto with no accountability of any kind as far as we can tell," she said.

"The crisis is real."

Pimentel said the group wants council to learn from other cities that have developed regulations for Airbnb. Berlin, for example, has recently banned people renting out their entire homes on the site.

"It will probably involve really looking at the numbers and figuring out, how do we get rid of the worst aspects of this and protect the parts of this that really are sharing," she said.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

David Cameron sings his last tune as Theresa May prepares to become U.K. prime minister. **World**

IN BRIEF

Officers to face direct indictment in sex assault

The case against three Toronto police officers charged with sexually assaulting a female colleague will now proceed directly to trial, according to court documents.

Leslie Nyznik, Sameer Kara and Joshua Cabero face charges of sexual assault and gang sexual assault. They are expected to plead not guilty. The matter is next in court on July 20. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Commission denied involvement in tribunal

After a rare request to participate in a Toronto police disciplinary tribunal, the Ontario Human Rights Commission has been denied involvement in the hearing of two Toronto officers charged with misconduct in the high-profile gunpoint arrest of four black teens, the so-called Neptune Four case. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Heat warning in effect

The second week of July will bring the heat to Toronto and parts of the GTA with highs of 30 C to 33 C, and a heat warning in effect for Monday.

Environment Canada says the heat and humidity will last until Thursday, and kick off with a high humidex rating on Monday.

Some areas could see some relief due to showers and thunderstorms, but nights will be warm and muggy with lows of 20 C to 23 C. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kensington may get break

Shop owner Ernesto works on one of his craft necklaces in Kensington Market. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

TAXES

Council to vote on small business pilot project

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Small business owners in Kensington Market may be in for a bit of a tax break.

City council is poised to vote on a proposal for a pilot project that, if approved, would reduce tax rates for small retail businesses in the iconic neighbourhood in order to support their survival and growth.

If it works, it could be implemented in other neighbourhoods or commercial districts.

> **Small retailers are really struggling, and we're losing them if we don't do anything.**
> Coun. Joe Cressy

"Small retailers are really struggling, and we're losing them if we don't do anything," said Coun. Joe Cressy, who's behind the motion.

Apart from the rising rents, Cressy said retailers are also facing competition from e-commerce sites and a growing consumer preference for malls and big box stores.

In a neighbourhood like Kensington, small retailers have historically been a part of the community fabric and should be maintained, Cressy said. Instead, he says they're closing up shop or being converted into bars or restaurants.

"There's more money to be made in selling alcohol than selling tomatoes," he said.

The new proposal would look at options like lowering the tax bracket for main street businesses or changing their tax assessments.

Ernesto, who for the past six years has operated Causa, a craft art jewelry shop in Kensington Market, told Metro he'd welcome any tax relief.

"I have a family and two kids to feed. This is really a small operation but I still have to pay huge taxes," he said. "It would be a big deal if taxes were reduced."

Pete Sanagan, owner of the butcher shop Sanagan's Meat Locker, said profit margins for raw food vendors are already very low. The city should create incentives for such businesses to open or stay in operations, he said.

"I think these small businesses are directly tied to communities and add to the neighbourhood feel," he said.

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Road safety plan on deck

TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS

City council set to consider ways to end deaths, injuries

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

City staff is recommending a number of changes to Toronto's new road safety plan — all designed to give it more teeth.

The recommendations — which will be tabled as council meets Tuesday — will include increased spending, increasing the number of pedestrian safety corridors and doubling the number of new mid-block crossings built each year, sources at City Hall told Metro.

Details on how much more money should be spent were not available Monday.

However, Tory hinted it could be significant in an interview with CBC's Metro Morning.

"I think people will be surprised at the degree to which I am open to some big change," he said.

The five-year, $68-million road safety plan was unveiled June 13. After advocates spoke out in Metro, criticizing the plan's goal — to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the roads by 20 per cent — and its budget, city officials promised improvements.

Tory backtracked first, pledging to adopt Vision Zero and eliminate, not reduce, road deaths. Coun. Jaye Robinson, chair of the public works committee, then asked staff to investigate options for more funding.

"The plan has to be passed and it has to be accelerated. That's what I'm pushing hard for," Robinson told Metro after a spate of pedestrian and cyclist collisions claimed two lives in less than 24 hours last week.

The report also suggests the city tap into the federal government's new infrastructure funding program to help pay for road safety improvements.

In the end, it will be up to Toronto city councillors to decide if saving lives is worth spending more money.

The road safety plan will be debated this week at what's expected to be a marathon council meeting lasting several days. Also on the agenda is the future of the Scarborough subway, new revenue tools, police presence at Pride and a controversial plan to license cyclists.

> "The plan has to be passed and it has to be accelerated. That's what I'm pushing hard for."
> Coun. Jaye Robinson

The city's proposals may include giving pedestrians more time to cross the street. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

BUDGET

What North American cities spend

The proposed five-year, $68-million budget for road safety in Toronto pales in comparison to what other jurisdictions in North America are spending to curb deaths and injuries, according to an analysis by Metro.

The budget for New York's Vision Zero plan is $1.2 billion, or about $140 per person over five years. San Francisco's two-year budget of $70 million works out to about $40.50 per person per year.

In contrast, Toronto's plan, as is, works out to less than $5 per person each year. Even if you factor in the city's new 10-year cycling plan, the annual per capita expenditure is still less than $11.

Proposed spending on the road safety plan is also dwarfed by other line items in Toronto's transportation budget. The city expects to spend $118 million on road repairs in 2016, for example.

Maintenance costs on eastern portion of the Gardiner Expressway approached $70 million this year alone.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

COLLISION

Woman struck by Beck Taxi wants more information

Yael Gottesman wants answers after she was hit by a Beck taxi while crossing at Queen and University. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

A Toronto woman is frustrated with the lack of accountability from Beck Taxi after being hit by a cab a few weeks ago.

Twenty-five-year-old Yael Gottesman said she was crossing the intersection of Queen and University in her wheelchair June 25 around 11 p.m. when a Beck driver attempted a right-hand turn and clipped her.

She wasn't seriously hurt, but was shaken up and she's still experiencing some pain.

Gottesman has since exchanged several emails with Beck but hasn't gotten answers about who the driver was and whether he'll be disciplined.

"I don't know if he'll be facing any charges. I still don't know what's going on, Beck won't tell me anything," she told Metro.

Gottesman said she did not see the driver stop after the accident but Kristine Hubbard, operations manager at Beck said the company's GPS data showed at the driver did remain on the scene.

Det. Constable Stefan Nasner of the Toronto police hit and run unit confirmed there is an open investigation into the collision, but would not provide further details.

"While we can't speak to the ongoing police investigation we can confirm that we identified the driver and turned this information over to the police 10 days ago," Hubbard wrote in an email.

"We have communicated this with Ms. Gottesman, along with our sincere apologies for her experience."

Hubbard said it's Beck's practice to suspend drivers pending investigation following a serious collision, but wouldn't say whether the driver in question was still on the road.

"Appropriate measures have been taken," she said.

For Gottesman, that's not enough.

"I would like to know who the driver is. I think that I have a right to know who the driver is that hit me," she said.

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TRANSIT

Scarborough subway debate comes back to life on agenda

Mayor John Tory is set to back an attempt to revive the controversial Sheppard subway extension, so as to secure votes this week for another subway extension to the Scarborough Town Centre.

Coun. Jim Karygiannis says he will move Tuesday that council reconsider a Sheppard subway extension championed by former mayor Rob Ford.

It's a move that Tory, who promised to make "evidence-based" decisions and has advocated against reopening transit decisions, appears willing to endorse.

Transit plans headed to council for debate and approval Tuesday include a single-stop addition to the Bloor-Danforth subway in Scarborough, a six-kilometre, $3.2-billion underground project Tory has advocated to build. But critics are pushing instead for a seven-stop LRT along the above-ground route of the aging Scarborough RT — a cheaper project that could leave money to build a second LRT with 17 stops along Eglinton Ave.

City council voted to build an LRT instead of a subway on Sheppard in 2012, following a council revolt against Ford.

The LRT would run 13 kilometres from Don Mills station on the Sheppard subway line to east of Morningside Ave. The subway would have extended the existing Sheppard line by eight kilometres eastward, bending south to connect to the Scarborough Town Centre.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Scrap ID sex markers: Activists

IDENTITY ISSUES

Driver licences to get a third gender option

For years, having to tick one of two boxes to describe gender identity has left many feeling ticked off.

Gender non-conforming, gender fluid or non-binary individuals, who don't identify as male or female, were forced to choose a label they didn't feel comfortable with.

Lane Silas Patriquin, a 22-year-old from Toronto who identifies as non-binary, found a workaround: applying white-out to the gender markers on ID cards. The omitted sex markers on the IDs haven't been an issue so far, except for one time when Patriquin was filing documents for a new passport and forgot to scratch out the whiteout beforehand.

The Ontario government recently announced it will be rolling out a third gender option for drivers' licences in 2017, one Patriquin is happy to get. The X marker will be available for those who don't identify exclusively as male or female.

Trans activist Nicki Ward at the trans memorial in Barbara Hall Park.

J.P. MOCZULSKI/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Last month, the province started issuing health cards that no longer display information about a person's sex.

Many in the LGBTQ community are hoping to see gender and sex designations removed from ID altogether, including transgender activist Nicki Ward.

"The driver's licence having an option for X is interesting — maybe it elevates the level of discussion. But frankly it shouldn't even be on there in the first place," she said. "Why does it matter what your gender is? Surely driving is a privilege that should be enjoyed by all Canadians."

A spokesperson for the Ontario Ministry of Transportation said the X marker is being offered for drivers' licences to comply with rules established by other international jurisdictions and the International Civil Aviation Organization, which recognize the X identifier as "unspecified."

As for passports, seven countries currently allow for a third sex designation — Australia, Bangladesh, Germany, India, Nepal, New Zealand and Pakistan — and Canada could soon follow in this vein.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gender on identity cards

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Members of the Toronto LGBTQ community question why wallet cards need gender markers at all.

INSTAGRAM

As an androgynous man, Rejh Lorenzo Cabrera is often questioned about his appearance. He'd like to see a third gender option on pieces of ID, like the proposed X.

"I think it's really sort of revolutionary for an option to just dismiss gender completely.
Rejh Lorenzo Cabrera, 25

Trying out different labels is helping Taylor Heywood figure out an identity. Heywood currently identifies as an intersex gender fluid non-binary trans person.

"Having the marker is really scary. It's hard because it leads to ... awkward questions and stares from people. Taylor Heywood, 19

FACEBOOK

FACEBOOK

At 18, Lane Silas Patriquin began identifying as non-binary but never changed the sex marker on ID because neither the male nor female marker felt right.

"As far as providing identification ... when I'm buying alcohol or using it as an ID, I've never had anyone say anything about it. Lane Silas Patriquin, 22

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ASTRONOMY

Canadians discover new planet

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

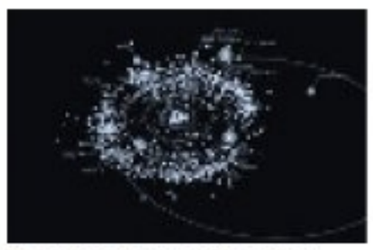
Canadian astronomers have helped make a far-out find some 12 billion km from our sun: a new dwarf planet with an "unusual" 700-year orbit.

Spotted by an international team that includes top researchers in Vancouver and Victoria, it is the largest object in the solar system that Canadians have ever found.

And according to University of British Columbia's Brett Gladman, the crew behind the discovery isn't letting the fact that it's "smallish" get in the way of their excitement — the object's diameter is barely wider than B.C., making it what's known as a "dwarf planet."

"Think of it as a smallish planet," explained Gladman, who holds a Canada Research Chair in planetary astronomy. "It's not quite big enough to be a planet, but it's still an impressive object with enough gravity to pull it into a spherical shape."

First spotted in late February, using five-month-old images from the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope at the top of the volcano island of Maunakea, for now the dwarf is simply named "2015 RR245."



The dwarf planet is called "2015 RR245." GETTY MAGES

Detained student's family ask for help

BANGLADESH

Trudeau urged to intervene in Toronto resident's case

The family of a Toronto university student who was detained after surviving a deadly attack in Bangladesh has asked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to intervene in the case of the young man, who is a permanent resident of Canada.

Tahmid Hasib Khan has been in custody in Dhaka since the July 1 attack, in which 20 hostages were killed, mostly foreigners.

The 22-year-old's family doesn't know why he's being held, but they insist Khan has done nothing wrong.

His brother, Talha Khan, who is a Canadian citizen, sent a letter through a lawyer to Trudeau's office on Monday, asking for Ottawa's help in the case.

"It's requesting that they reach out to the government of Bangladesh, to let the government of Bangladesh know that Canada is concerned," said lawyer Marlys Edwardh.

"And (the letter asks) to seek access to this young man so that the conditions of his detention can be monitored and it can be ensured that he is not being held in circumstances that violate international norms."

Global Affairs Canada has said it is monitoring the situation in Bangladesh closely, but a spokeswoman said Monday that "there are limits" to what any country can do for individuals who are not its citizens.

However, Edwardh said that although Khan is not a Canadian citizen, Ottawa does have "a clear discretion" to request consular access to him.

"Tahmid is a young man who has very real Canadian connections," she said.

Khan, an undergraduate student studying global health at the University of Toronto, was detained after the attack ended, and his family fears authorities may suspect him of being linked to the attackers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tahmid Hasib Khan, a University of Toronto student who survived a hostage-taking in Bangladesh, has been detained by authorities ever since the weekend attack, his family said Wednesday. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **We want to know why he is being held, as a witness, or as a suspect.** Talha Khan, Tahmid's brother

IMMIGRATION

Going home was refugee's big mistake

Sometimes, going home can have terrible consequences.

Afghan native Obaidullah Siddiqui learned that the hard way when the former refugee was stripped of his right to stay in Canada because he made the mistake of going back — three times — to his war-torn homeland to visit his aging parents.

After living in exile in Pakistan for two decades, Siddiqui and his family were resettled to Canada as permanent residents by a private sponsorship group in January 2011.

But as his marriage started to crumble amid the chaos of the resettlement, the 49-year-old Surrey, B.C. man said he took three separate trips back home — two accompanied by his children — to visit his parents in Herat and to get their help in saving his marriage.

Obaidullah Siddiqui fears being separated from his children if he's forced to leave Canada. HANDOUT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In November 2013, immigration officials initiated what is known as a "cessation application" and later stripped Siddiqui's permanent resident status on the grounds "he was found to have re-availed himself of Afghanistan's protection" and his life would no longer be in danger there.

As a result, Siddiqui became the first case where a sponsored refugee arriving as a permanent resident was stripped of his status, and faced removal under changes the Tories introduced in 2012 to immigration laws to make losing permanent residence automatic in such circumstances, with no discretion.

"This has broken me. I am going through extremely hard times mentally, emotionally and psychologically. I am being separated from my three lovely children and I am facing an ambiguous future," said Siddiqui, who fled Afghanistan for Pakistan in 1987 before he came here.

"Imagine living with no status, no permission to work, not being able to be with your children and having nowhere to go." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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ICONIC IMAGE IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS Social media is exploding with reaction to a photograph of the protests in Louisiana over the shooting death of Alton Sterling in a struggle Tuesday with two Baton Rouge police officers. The photo is of a young woman in a flowing dress near the city's police headquarters, the instant before she is arrested by police. She was held in detention for 24 hours.

PHOTO: JONATHAN BACHMAN/REUTERS; TEXT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Baton Rouge police facing criticism

LOUISIANA

Nearly 200 arrested, but charges still uncertain

Criticism mounted Monday over how Baton Rouge police dealt with throngs of protesters during the weekend, including nearly 200 demonstrators who were arrested and may yet face criminal charges.

The protests have been growing around the country as people express outrage over the recent deaths of two black men at the hands of police in Louisiana and in Minnesota.

East Baton Rouge District Attorney Hillar C. Moore III said Monday his office hasn't made any decisions on charges against the protesters and that it will be done on a case-by-case basis.

"We're going to do as good job as we can, as quickly as we can, to try to go through the (police) reports as they come in," he said.

Moore suggested that "first offenders" and people who may have just "stepped over a line" could have their cases resolved more quickly than those for protesters accused of carrying guns or injuring officers.

But with tensions rising since last week's killings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile in Minnesota by white officers, and an attack on police by a black sniper in Dallas that killed five officers, many have questioned whether the police response has been appropriate.

Kristy Carter said she's been protesting every night since Sterling was killed. She said that officers outside the police station said they don't have a problem as long as protesters don't cross barricades or stop traffic — but that in practice it's different.

"Yesterday evening we were standing here ... and they just started coming and attacking the crowd for no reason," Carter said of police.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain to get new 'Iron Lady'

Theresa May, 59, is expected to be sworn in as Britain's new prime minister later this week. Here are three things to know about her:

Theresa May GETTY IMAGES

1 "Brexit means Brexit"

She was part of the Remain side in the Brexit debate, although she came under fire for not campaigning hard enough.

2 Private person

May prefers not to give out personal details, although she has spoken about how she has Type-1 diabetes.

3 Students aren't immigrants

May thinks too many foreign students don't go home when their visas run out.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CAMERON'S TUNE

David Cameron said he'd be calling it quits as PM by Wednesday. Then he walked back into 10 Downing Street, and as he turned, it seems he began to sing "Do dooo doooo" to himself. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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EMMA TEITEL ON PASSPORTS

Unless you have a debilitating fear of heights, the prospect of getting on a plane is unlikely to keep you up at night. But if you are transgender or gender queer, it might.

Air travel is stressful.

There are passports to mind, forgotten toiletries to stuff last minute into tiny plastic bags, and planes to catch—or miss.

There are glitches in the in-flight entertainment system, crying babies, and — courtesy of the person sitting next to you — inaudible, pungent farts.

But for most of us — and by most of us I mean people whose gender identities match their sex at birth — the stress of air travel is fairly minor.

Unless you have a debilitating fear of heights, or you're a Muslim person wary of racial profiling, the prospect of going to the airport and getting on a plane is unlikely to keep you up at night.

But if you are transgender or gender queer, it might.

In fact, in some cases, it may even prevent you from travelling altogether.

The reason for this is simple. Right now, the gender designations on our nation's passports allow Canadians to identify in only one of two ways — as either "male" or "female."

There is currently no gender-neutral identification option on Canadian passports, meaning that when a transgender or gender non-conforming person goes to the airport with a single-gender passport they can and do face uncomfortable questions and sometimes discrimination from airport staff who are confused by or suspicious of the way they look.

RJ Vandrish, an artist who lives in Toronto, who is gender queer, hasn't left the country since 2011 precisely for this reason. (2011 was when Vandrish transitioned; they use gender-neutral pronouns).

"I don't feel comfortable trying to cross any borders," says Vandrish, "because I don't know how I'm going to read (to airport staff), especially on an international level where gender is perceived differently."

Passports are full of other ways to confirm identity — from height to a photograph

By requiring holders to indicate a gender, passports reveal information that might not be needed. HANDOUT

"Even domestic travel is a little terrifying because I don't know if they're going to let me on the flight or not, because Transport Canada states that I have to look like my sex."

Vandrish's anxiety about this isn't unwarranted.

"I get referred to as 'oh sir–um oh, ma'am' and the person is very confused," they say. "Or I get looks when I use the washroom. Those experiences tell me that I'm not going to have an easy time traveling with a male or female passport."

Vandrish isn't alone either; according to Marcella Daye, Acting Manager of Policy at the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the passport problem is top of mind for several transgender and gender non-conforming Canadians whom the organization consulted.

"When a person changes their gender they have to go through a challenging process of changing every single one of their IDs, which is time consuming and costly," says Daye. "While they are in the middle of it, they might be carrying ID's with different genders."

In other words, if your driver's licence says you're male and your passport says you're female, accessing services that require two pieces of government issued ID can be make for awkward and potentially discriminatory results.

Luckily there is an easy solution to this problem—one adopted by seven other nations, including Australia, Bangladesh, Germany and New Zealand; a solution approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization (to which Canada adheres).

It's the called the third gender option: citizens who select it don't have to identify as male or female—instead, their passports will be marked with an "X".

Unfortunately there is a downside that makes the option unpopular with some.

That downside is the possibility that those who choose the X option will be easily "outed" as transgender or gender queer by airport officials.

Some gender non-conforming people, says Daye, would rather take their chances with a conventional passport than run the risk of outing themselves to the world.

They prefer the conventional passport (imperfect as it is) to the one that would single them out.

But in the absence of a better solution (perhaps in the future, we can remove gender altogether from passports) the X option is the safest and the most fair that we've got. For those concerned about security, passports are full of other ways to confirm identity—from height to a photograph.

"Gender is rarely needed to deliver a service to a person," says Daye. Neither is religion — once common on identification cards and travel documents.

"We used to use race and religion to identify people and we don't anymore," says Daye. It's our hope that gender will come under the same scrutiny."

It's my hope too.

Because when transgender and gender non-conforming people go to the airport, the anxiety inducing question on their minds shouldn't be "what will they say when I flash my passport," but "where the hell did I put it?"

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star.

Three quick ways to make our roads safer

TORY'S TORONTO

Matt Elliott

I hate to be a cynic, but as Toronto City Council gets set to debate a road safety plan intended to make our streets safer for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users this week, I'm worried.

I'm worried that I'll see a carbon copy of past council debates focused around grand plans — too much talk and not enough action.

I'm worried that once the votes are counted and the politicians go home, not enough will change.

And I have reason to worry. Last year, councillors endorsed ambitious multi-year plans to reduce poverty and improve affordable housing but then whiffed on the implementation, opting to hold back parts of the strategies because they didn't want to pay for them.

That can't happen again.

The number of injuries and fatalities on Toronto's streets points to a city in crisis. It's time for immediate action. In addition to endorsing— and strengthening — the long-term safety plan, Mayor John Tory and council should consider actions that can happen quickly, and that aren't subject to the budget process.

Start with these.

Lower speed limits. For pedestrians and cyclists, as vehicle speeds go up, so too does the likelihood of death.

Coun. Jaye Robinson deserves credit for recognizing this and bringing forward motions last month to lower limits on several downtown streets. Her colleagues should follow her lead and bring forward further amendments to lower limits across the city.

Improve construction zones. The start of Toronto's construction season seemed to coincide with a spike in collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists.

I'm not surprised. Construction sites on city streets are arranged with little regard for those not in cars, often forcing other users to make detours or merge with traffic.

Fixing this should be easy. Round up all the signage bearing messages like "sidewalk closed" and "cyclists merge with traffic" and burn it. Instead, implement guidelines directing contractors to first serve cyclists and pedestrians during road closures.

Targeted enforcement. In June, at the request of Mayor John Tory, Toronto police launched a pilot project where uniformed officers were stationed at intersections throughout Toronto to keep traffic moving.

It's unclear what they accomplished, beyond yelling at pedestrians who entered crosswalks during the countdown phase.

These officers would be better used at key danger zones identified by cyclists and pedestrians, ticketing drivers who put the vulnerable at risk.

None of these measures are likely to be magic fixes. Lasting change will come from infrastructure designed for pedestrians and cyclists. But changes like these would at least serve as an indication that local politicians understand the urgency of the issue. Long-term plans are good and necessary, but the people injured and dying on Toronto's deadly streets can't wait.

Matt Elliott lives and writes in Toronto. Follow him on Twitter @GraphicMatt

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Solange Knowles joined protesters marching the streets of Baton Rouge this weekend

Siblings on the sidelines

Right: Sara Selthofer and daughter Menka sneak away to the playground during one of her brother Alex's games. **When youth sports get serious, non-sporty siblings often have to tag along whether they like it or not.** CONTRIBUTED

FAMILY LIFE

How parents deal when only one kid is in elite sports

Genna Buck
Metro Canada

For as long as she can remember, many of nine-year-old Menka Stojcevski's summer weekends have been the same. She either sits on the sidelines watching a baseball or golf game, or kills time at a nearby park, sometimes with other non-sporty siblings of young athletes.

"There was this one like three-hour game of baseball and I was getting really hot. After a while I get bored of watching," she says.

Menka's brother Alex, 12, plays baseball and golf in the summer and rep hockey from August to April. All year long, he has practices and games at least a couple of times per week, more during hockey season, plus weekend tournaments out of town and three-hour-plus drives from their home in Windsor, Ont. to away games.

Alex is in house-league baseball this season, but he's such a strong player that he keeps getting asked to tournaments.

Menka, on the other hand, is more academically inclined. She likes to read, and has tried out horseback riding, gymnastics, dance and hockey at a recreational level, but nothing requiring anything the type of commitment Alex's sports take.

Their mother, Sara Selthofer, like so many parents, struggles to balance Alex's sports — and the travelling, money and family time they require — with the needs of her other child.

"It's a tough thing," says Katherine Tamminen, a sport psychology professor at York University. "Sometimes siblings do feel neglected."

Elite sports may gobble up time, but they don't have to monopolize parents' attention or "dominate the entire family conversation," Tamminen said.

"Our schedule has basically been around Alex since he was seven," Selthofer says. "It's a daily battle for me. I do feel like I spend a lot more time with Alex. You get caught up in it ... because you're very proud of your athletic child. And Menka's very easygoing and content. (We) almost take advantage of that."

It's painful, because Selthofer loves watching and knows Alex wants both parents cheering him on, but lately they've been splitting up the family more: Her husband Adam takes Alex to his game or practice while Menka and her mom stay home or explore the town they're visiting.

And when she sees Menka fading during a game, they go to the mall, or out for ice cream, or head to the hotel pool.

"I can just tell she's had it," Selthofer says. "For her to sit through three ball games in one day is not fun. It's great if there are other siblings, if she has a friend she can play with. But sometimes that doesn't work out."

"I'm proud of Alex that he goes through all this hard work in hockey and baseball and all the other sports," Menka says, confessing, at the same time, that she'd usually rather do something other than watch a game.

Over the years, Menka has collected some wisdom about how to make the best of being a sports sibling: "Make sure to plan what you're going to do, and don't be shy to make new friends, because if you don't make new friends it's going to be boring."

EXPERT ADVICE

Tips for parents from Dany MacDonald, UPEI sports psychologist

Provide choices
Decisions help kids "feel invested," MacDonald says. He suggests letting siblings choose their spirit wear for the game, pick where they'll sit and make up a chant to cheer their brother or sister on.

Be realistic
Parents need to remember odds are around 1 in 10,000 that a young player will become a pro athlete — even though 30 to 40 per cent of parents believe their kid has what it takes.

Make fun priority one
Above all, parents should remember sports are ultimately about fun, especially for younger kids. Kids get the same social and fitness benefits from sampling many sports as they can from elite-level training in one.

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Goodbye bachelor party benders

EVENT PLANNING

Skydiving and bike tours are replacing strip clubs, casinos

For Jarrett Ehler, the perfect bachelor party was not a night of drunken debauchery. There were no strip clubs, casinos or limousines.

Instead, he and 11 close friends played golf, ate steaks, sipped beers and talked around a campfire during a getaway at Sherwood Golf and Country Club in Chester, N.S., in early June.

"I wanted it to be about having my friends together and having a good time with them," said the 27-year-old Ehler, who is from Prince Edward Island but lives in Toronto.

"I didn't want it to be a typical city event where everyone is going in different directions and you get so absolutely hammered that you don't even have any meaningful conversations."

Industry experts say Ehler's experience is becoming the new normal. Bachelor parties in Canada are moving away from the traditional night of vice, with many grooms opting instead for experience-based celebrations that run the gamut from beer tasting to bike tours.

Dan Brennan, CEO of the Ottawa-based Breakaway Experiences Inc., said he often caters to the thrill-seeking groom. He said bachelors nowadays are looking for a full-day or weekend-long experience, with some opting to tick boxes off their bucket lists.

"It's often not just about partying in bars and drinking anymore. It's turning into a full experience," said Brennan, adding that his company offers a range of bachelor party experiences including skydiving and stunt car driving.

"More and more, bachelor parties are becoming an event. They want to do something that they're going to remember — something unique and fun."

> **It's often not just about partying in bars and drinking anymore. It's turning into a full experience.**
> Dan Brennan, Breakaway Experiences Inc CEO

Friends of Howard An , right, who is getting married in October, exercise before some Axe Throwing action as part of An's bachelor party. EDUARDO LIMA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oren Bornstein, owner of the bachelor party planning company Connected Montreal, said many contemporary couples are getting married at an older age than their parents did.

He said those grooms are more likely to crave a weekend away from the daily grind rather than a one-night bender.

"People are getting married later on in life and there's less and less chances for guys and their buddies to go on vacation with just each other," said Bornstein. "So ironically, it's becoming less about the bachelor and more just about everyone getting together."

But Bornstein conceded he still plans plenty of parties riddled with immoral self-indulgence: "I think at the end of the day, boys will be boys," he said with a laugh.

Newlywed Matt McGrath wasn't interested in having naked women at his camping stag in coastal Blandford, N.S.

"At the end of the day, I don't live my life like a rap video," said the 31-year-old man with a deep chuckle, adding that his friends planned his party. "(Strippers) don't have any sort of appeal to me. I don't see the entertainment in it and I don't think it's tasteful."

McGrath said he thinks grooms in the 21st century are also becoming more frugal.

"Throwing away your money on visuals — maybe that's not the best way to spend your money or your friend's money when you can grab a couple of beers... and share some stories with the intent of celebrating the life you've created and carved out for yourself," he said.

Ehler agreed, saying he wanted to celebrate his upcoming marriage with his closest friends.

"It's not about a 'last call,"' said Ehler, who is getting married in Digby, N.S., on July 31. "It really is just an opportunity to get everyone together and celebrating the phase of life that you're at." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Student-work placements catch the eye of healthcare industry

As the only diploma program of its kind in Canada, Centennial College's healthcare environmental services management (HESM) is preparing students for today's changing health care environment — with its increased need for infection control measures, outbreak planning, isolation cleaning needs and emergency preparedness — says the offering's coordinator.

"It's unique and there is a huge demand for professionals with the type of training we offer," says Karen Barnes, who also teaches in the two-year program. "Even a quick search on the Internet reveals that there are many positions in environmental or support services as environmental supervisors. Our graduates are getting hired right out of the program and on the low end can make $50,000 part time."

Launched five years ago, HESM focuses on teaching students to develop, implement and monitor operating systems in the housekeeping, laundry, maintenance and transportation areas within the environmental department of a healthcare facility. It also highlights the regulatory requirements of organizations such as the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Health Canada, Occupational Health and Safety, and Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee.

"We offer a combination of theory and industry-specific labs so students do experiments using current technology that follows the latest trends and best practices, including a focus on going green," says Barnes. "Our faculty members are all professionals who work in the field and our advisory committee meets twice a year to discuss curriculum to ensure we are current."

It is, however, two work placement opportunities, says Barnes, that are getting students noticed by the industry. During the first placement, students shadow front-line workers once a week, while the second sees them shadowing the management team of a facility to ensure they have experience in both areas.

LORIN IPSUM DOLOR SIT

"We arrange the placements for our students and when we do, companies are going, 'Wow, there is a specific program out here, I never knew,'" says Barnes. "They are starting to realize they need people who are specifically qualified to manage these housekeeping departments to keep the health care environment safe in all aspects for staff, patients and visitors."

For more information on the HESM program, visit centennialcollege.ca.

metro SPORTS

Tens of thousands of people greeted Portugal on arrival in Lisbon on Monday to celebrate Sunday's Euro 2016 victory

Nixed trade benefits both Blue Jays, Reds

MLB

Saunders and Bruce earn all-star nods for strong play

There would be a shade of irony if both Michael Saunders and Jay Bruce ended up on the same hotel floor, down the hall from each other at the all-star game in San Diego on Tuesday.

Four months ago, they were almost dealt for each other as part of a three-team trade with the Blue Jays, Reds and Angels.

Michael Saunders, left, and Jay Bruce GETTY IMAGES

Saunders was on his way to Anaheim in the deal, and Bruce would have replaced him in Toronto as the team's primary left-handed hitting outfielder.

Health concerns of one of the players involved in the trade scuttled the deal that was widely reported but never completed.

Both players earned an all-star berth last week with their original teams, so the nixed deal has turned out well for both organizations.

Bruce has a .267 batting average this year with 18 home runs and 63 RBI, bouncing back from two subpar seasons. His name has once again popped up in trade talks with the rebuilding Reds.

Bruce is in the final year of a six-year, $51-million contract he signed with the Reds in 2011. The Reds have a $17-million club option for 2017 (with a $1-million buyout).

Saunders worked tremendously long and hard after tearing knee ligaments, simply to get healthy and a shot at reclaiming the left-field position that was his to start the 2015 season. He missed not only the bulk of last year, but the Jays' exciting playoff run.

"I've always said I was glad it (trade) didn't happen," Saunders said Sunday, before boarding a plane to San Diego.

"This year I wanted to be with this team and help it every day. So yeah, I'm glad I have that opportunity."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STANTON LIGHTS UP OPENING ROUND OF DERBY Miami Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton hit 24 home runs during the opening round of Monday night's Home Run Derby in San Diego. Stanton's longest shot of the 24 dingers measured at a mammoth 497 feet. Go to metronews.ca for more MLB All-Star Game coverage. HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Duncan retires after 19 glorious seasons

San Antonio Spurs star Tim Duncan is finally calling it a career.

Duncan announced his retirement on Monday after 19 seasons, five championships, two MVP awards and 15 all-star appearances. It marks the end of an era for the Spurs and the NBA.

Duncan was the No. 1 overall pick out of Wake Forest in 1997 and teamed with Gregg Popovich, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili to make the Spurs the most enduring success story in modern American sports.

Tim Duncan GETTY IMAGES

Duncan was a three-time NBA Finals MVP and was named to the All-NBA First Team 10 times in his career. He is fifth on the NBA's career list in blocks, sixth in rebounds and 14th in scoring.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Raptors reportedly add Sullinger to frontcourt

The Toronto Raptors appear to have signed power forward/centre Jared Sullinger in an attempt to solidify their frontcourt.

The Raptors have not officially announced the signing, but Sullinger tweeted "WE THE NORTH#0" on his verified account and changed his Twitter avatar to a Raptors logo.

Reports say the deal is for one year at around US$6 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC sold for $4B

The UFC has been sold for approximately $4 billion to a group led by Hollywood entertainment conglomerate WME-IMG, both companies confirmed Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ruling on Sharapova's doping ban postponed

A ruling on Maria Sharapova's appeal of her two-year doping ban has been postponed until September, ruling her definitively out of the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

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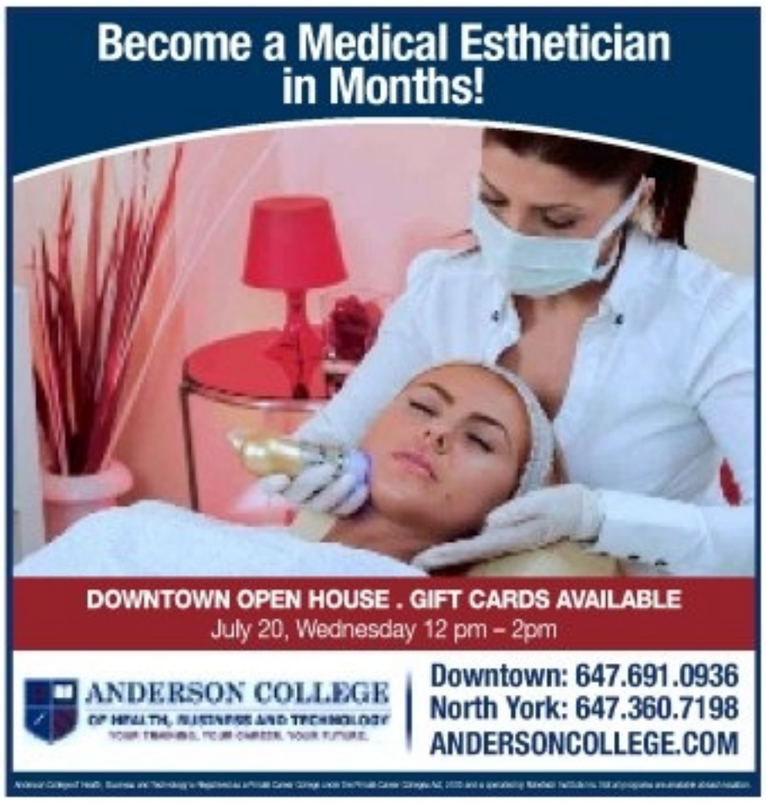

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RECIPE Salmon with Peach Cucumber Salsa

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You can top this sweet and family-friendly salsa on a variety of fish but we're fans of tender salmon.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

Ingredients
- 4 or 5 filets of salmon with skin
- 2 cups of peeled, pitted and diced peaches (I used 3 peaches)
- 1 cup unpeeled, diced cucumber
- 3/4 cup diced red pepper
- 1/4 cup washed, finely chopped cilantro
- 4 Tbsp lime juice
- 1 tsp of chipotle chiles (adjust depending on how much heat you like) minced

Directions

1. Mix all the ingredients for the salsa except the chiles. Separate the amount you think you'll give little kids or those with zero tolerance for heat. Then add your chiles and stir it all together. Taste and check seasoning. Cover and place in the fridge.

2. Wash and pat dry the salmon. Season the fish with salt and pepper and a slick of olive oil on both sides. Place the fish on the grill, skin side down. Leave for 4 to 5 minutes, depending on the size of your filets. Use a thin spatula to flip the fish over. Allow to cook for another 4 to 5 minutes on the flesh side. Serve with a heaping spoon of salsa

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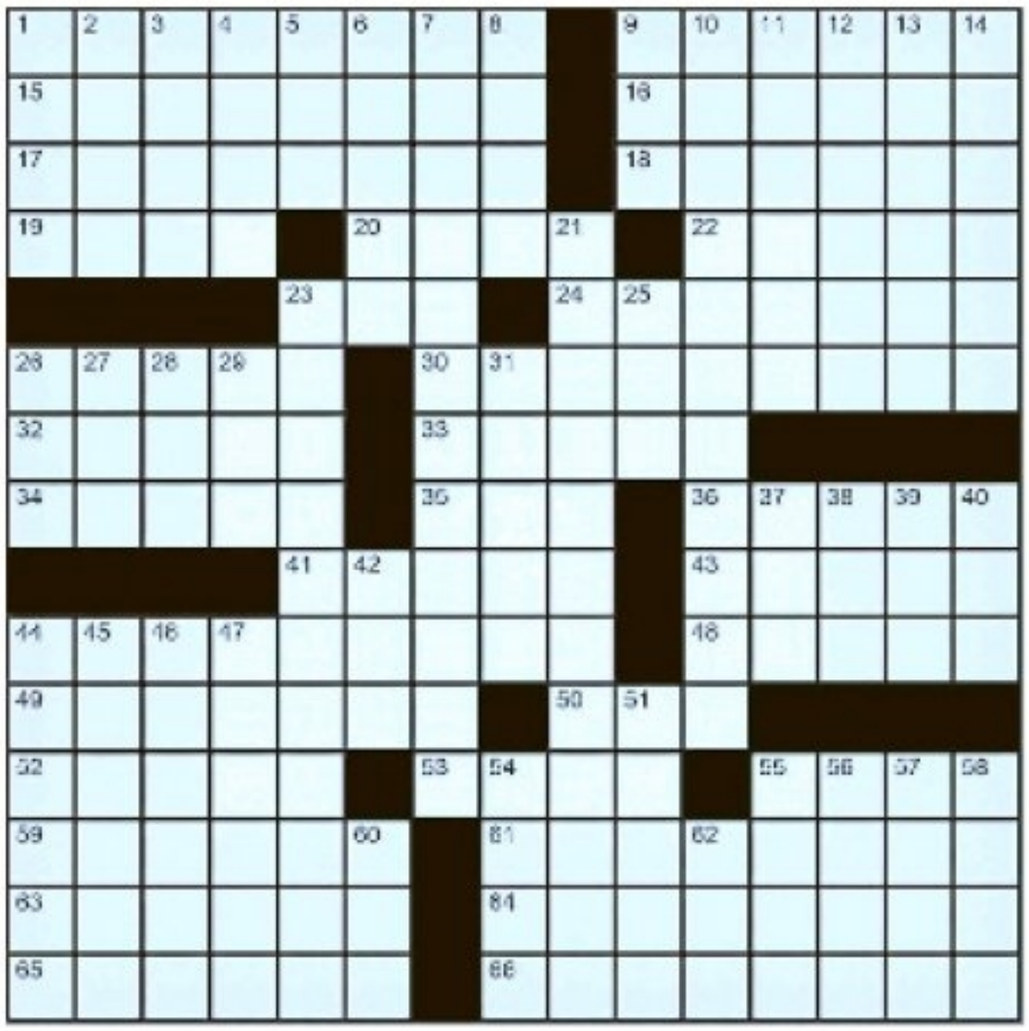
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Newfoundland... Village on the Great Northern Peninsula: 2 wds.
9. Three-sided ancient harp
15. Goals reacher
16. Q. "Who is Bruce Willis' daughter who won on 'Dancing with the Stars'?" A. "_ _ believe."
17. Canadian supermodel Monika
18. Take _ _ (Rest)
19. Leaky balloon sounds
20. 'Arthr' suffix
22. "Say _ _ the Dress"
23. "...or _ _ thought."
24. Greek Myth: Hunter turned into a hunted-by-hounds stag
26. Mount _ Hospital, in Toronto
30. Flyers
32. Breezing through
33. Stick out like _ _ thumb
34. Welsh poet Mr. Thomas
35. Calif. NBA team
36. Trash-can-lids-as-instruments theatrical show
41. Actor Alan's
43. Intrepid individual
44. Welder's tool
48. Mosey along
49. Cite: 2 wds.
50. Climbing plant
52. Between: French
53. Supplication
55. Biblical twin
59. Saskatchewan hamlet, it looks like our great nation in a way
61. Hamlet castle setting
63. Cylindrically-shaped
64. Self
65. Town Crier's call!: 2 wds.
66. Once/when: 3 wds.

DOWN
1. Paul McCartney's instrument
2. Abbr. list-enders
3. CFL players, e.g.
4. Also-_ (Runners-up)
5. The Company org.
6. "Blame It _ _" (1984)
7. Nunavut... Mount Thor is so steep that it's known for being the Earth's greatest what?: 2 wds.
8. "Able was I _ _ saw Elba."
9. -La-La lead-in
10. 1967 Rolling Stones hit: 2 wds.
11. Jennifer Lopez hit: 2 wds.
12. "...six _ _-laying..."
13. Speechmaker
14. Certain cameras
21. Canadian author (who grew up in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park) of The Stone Diaries: 2 wds.
23. Be an endorser of 'Ghent' to end the War of 1812: 3 wds.
25. "Proud Mary" gr.
26. Clown face expression
27. Frigid
28. Zippo
29. Santa _, California
31. "The Love Boat" bartender
37. Glasgow topper
38. Eyeball
39. Alice's diner boss
40. Grand-_, Nova Scotia
42. Piece of land
44. Inhalation
45. Temporary money getter
46. Hill _ _ (Ireland's ancient High Kings realm)
47. Mr. Klemperer, Colonel Klink's portrayer on "Hogan's Heroes"
51. Pottery creations
54. Carrie Fisher's royal role
55. 'Within'-meaning prefix
56. "_ _ conclusion..." (Speech-ending phrase)
57. Greek city once called Ambracia
58. Slangy one-eighty turns
60. Bee's follower
62. Ancient veil-giver

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
The next three weeks will be full of opportunities for parties, picnics, sports events and playful times with children. You feel flirtatious and in the mood for fun!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Expect to focus on home and family in the next three weeks. Many of you will attend to home repairs and tackle fun decorating projects. (Sometimes not so fun.)

Gemini May 22 - June 21
In the next three weeks, your daily schedule will be busy! Short trips, errands and discussions with everyone will be upbeat and friendly.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Trust your moneymaking ideas in the next three weeks, because you can boost your income. It's a good time to shop for treasures for yourself and loved ones.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Both Venus and Mercury will move into your sign now, to stay for several weeks. This makes you social, charming and diplomatic. (Yes, everyone loves you.)

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Research and working behind the scenes will go well for you in the next few weeks. If there's something you need to learn or discover, start digging!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The next few weeks will be a social, fun-loving time for you. Enjoy classes, clubs, groups and associations. Expect to hang out with younger, creative people.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Discussions with bosses, parents and VIPs will go well in the next few weeks. Expect someone to ask for your creative input about design, layout, landscaping or webpages.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Travel for pleasure appeals to you now. In the next few weeks, you will have chances to travel, which means you must keep your eyes open and be ready to jump at the first opportunity.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Gifts, goodies and favors from others will come your way in the next three weeks. This is an excellent time to tie up loose ends with inheritances and shared property.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Relations with partners and close friends will improve in the next three weeks, because both Venus and Mercury will be opposite your sign.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will enjoy your job much more in the next three weeks because co-workers will be supportive and friendly. You also might get a raise or, at least, praise.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			6		2			
6	5	8				2	4	9
	4		5		7		3	
		3				8		
	1		4		8		9	
3	2	4				1	5	7
			1		4			

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Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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3	1	6	9	4	2	7	5	8
5	7	4	6	3	8	1	2	9
9	8	2	5	7	1	3	4	6
1	5	3	2	8	9	4	6	7
6	9	8	7	1	4	5	3	2
2	4	7	3	5	6	9	8	1
8	6	1	4	9	3	2	7	5
4	2	5	1	6	7	8	9	3
7	3	9	8	2	5	6	1	4

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